

News from U.S. Rep. John Spratt (D-SC)

Assistant to the Democratic Leader

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US House of Representatives – Washington, DC

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Spratt Announces Brownfields Grant for Rock Hill

WASHINGTON – U.S. Rep. John Spratt (D-SC) announced today that the City of Rock Hill has been selected by the Environmental Protection Agency for a brownfields assessment grant. The city will use the federal funds – a total of \$200,000 – to search for hazardous waste on the sites of several abandoned textile mills in the Arcade-Westside neighborhood.

Four Arcade-Westside textile mills closed in the past 15 years, leaving behind 2,500 residents, many of whom looked to the mills for employment. Some 21 percent of residents have incomes below the poverty level.

“This area has sidewalks and hardwood trees, and lies at the core of the city and has visible potential,” said Spratt. “But before it can be renewed, it has to be reclaimed. Old mills, like the burned-out Arcade, taint the area, and are not only eye sores, but environmental sores too. This is why these sites are called ‘brownfields.’”

A “brownfield” is an industrial site that lies unused for fear of environmental contamination. Clean up spurs development and improves public health as well as the landscape.

“This is another step in the city’s plans to revitalize the Arcade-Westside area and make it more livable and productive,” said Spratt. “This grant comes from the Environmental Protection Agency. I am also asking the Appropriations Committee for additional Community Development funds in the Housing and Urban Development budget to improve the water and sewer systems in the Westside-Arcade area of Rock Hill.”

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